

G.O.P. TOLD TO FILL VACUUM ON CHINA

Ripon Society Urges Party
to Take Leadership Role

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The Ripon Society, an organization of young Republicans, urged the Republican party today to "fill a leadership vacuum" in developing a more flexible American policy toward Communist China.

The society, in one of its periodic position papers, urged a two-fold approach to China that would continue to "contain" her militarily while also "opening wide an alternative realm of contact."

It said, however, that diplomatic recognition of Peking and support of her admission to the United Nations need not be first steps but should be viewed as "the result, not the cause, of an improved diplomatic atmosphere."

The quest for such an atmosphere, the society's paper said, could be furthered by toning down hostile American statements about Communist China, "more insistently and more dramatically pursuing increased contact between American and Chinese citizens, and dropping overt opposition to Chinese admission to the United Nations."

The group also urged a review of the Government's position that the Taiwan regime of Chiang Kai-shek is the only legitimate Chinese Government, and a more flexible Chinese-American trade policy.

Urged to Attend Meetings

It also advocated that the United States and other nuclear powers "continually encourage Chinese representation at all international conferences" dealing with arms control and nuclear proliferation.

The society said it would be "foolish to expect an overnight change in Chinese opinion once these initiatives are taken."

"But," it went on, "these overtures must be made nevertheless. As China grows in power and in security, as her economic and social problems ease, she may develop leadership and attitudes which will bring her into a responsible role in the community of nations."

"There is little for the United States to lose in attempting to encourage such a development."

But since the Johnson Administration was not encouraging or adopting a more flexible approach to China, the society said, "then the responsibility to do so falls upon the Republican party."

The Ripon Society is an organization of young Republican progressives, mainly situated in the Boston area. More than half the Boston chapter of about 145 members are students at Harvard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and other Boston area colleges.

Office in Cambridge

Faculty members, businessmen, and professional men also are members of the chapter, which maintains a business office in Cambridge. Another chapter of about 40 members functions in Los Angeles and scattered membership across the country brings the total to several hundred, a society spokesman said.

The group distributes a newsletter, Forum, and documents like the one on China to a mailing list of about 1,100 persons who subscribe or contribute to its work. The position paper on China also went to about 850 news organizations, to all Republican Senators and Representatives and all members of the Republican National Committee.

The society's president is Dr. John S. Saloma 3d, an assistant professor of political science at M. I. T.

The society draws its name from Ripon, Wis., which is one of several cities that claim to have been the birthplace of the Republican party.

The document conceded that the Republican party's "strain of realistic and responsible leadership" in foreign affairs "has not always been the dominant one within our party, and in the last few years it has often been eclipsed, particularly in matters concerning the Far East."

Faith in the Party

But the paper expressed faith that "our party has the resources from which to create principled policies which are imaginative, flexible and progressive. Republicans can and must fill a leadership vacuum which has developed in the formulation of American policy toward China."

The Ripon group stated its purposes as follows:

"As members of a new generation of Americans and of Republicans we can no longer be silent while vital issues are discussed in a manner which is narrow-minded and unimaginative. We can no longer be content with clichés and stereotypes, from either the rigid 'right' or the sentimental 'left.' Even as we hope for a new and more flexible generation of Chinese leadership, so we also suggest that the perspectives of younger Americans should be broadened beyond the rigid points of view which have led to the current impasse."

Ripon Society